

Remarks of the Honorable Debbie Dingell
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on the Environment and Climate Change

MARKUP

June 16, 2021

OPENING STATEMENT (3 Minutes)

Thank you, Chairman Tonko, for holding today's markup on three important bills I have been proud to work on that will help us ensure Americans nationwide have access to clean, safe, and affordable drinking water and that will protect the American people from harmful forever chemicals that are pervasive in every aspect of modern life.

Water is life. It is a fundamental human right and for too many Americans in the United States—the wealthiest nation in the world—the choice between putting food on the table and paying a water bill is very real.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen the water crisis exacerbated, from families facing water shutoffs to growing water debts that have accrued during this public health emergency.

No one should have to live without safe, clean, and affordable access to water—this includes replacing lead service lines, ridding PFAS from our water systems, providing long-term water debt relief, and not shutting any family's water off. Clean drinking water is a right for all, not a privilege. The bills we are marking up today, many of which, I am proud to have led with many of my colleagues, will begin to make a real difference in the lives of millions of American, if enacted.

I would like to thank you, Chairman Tonko and Chairman Pallone, for working with me and my colleagues, Rep. Rashida Tlaib, Rep. Lisa

Blunt Rochester, and Rep. Fred Upton, on advancing these important bills we are considering before the Committee today.

Thank you and I yield back.